A Brief outline of the Proposed Plan

A Study of Amitav Ghosh's Selected Works in the Light of Ecocriticism

Synopsis submitted to

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In English

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1. Introduction:

Ecocriticism is the study of literature and the environment from an interdisciplinary point of view, where literature scholars analyze texts that illustrate environmental concerns and examine the various ways literature treats the subject of nature. Glotfelty's working definition in *The Ecocriticism Reader* is that "ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment", and one of the implicit goals of the approach is to recoup professional dignity for what Glotfelty calls the "undervalued genre of nature writing". Lawrence Buell defines 'ecocriticism' as study of the relationship between literature and the environment conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmentalist praxis".

Some ecocritics brainstorm possible solutions for the correction of the contemporary environmental situation, though not all ecocritics agree on the purpose, methodology, or scope of ecocriticism. In the United States, ecocriticism is often associated with the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), which hosts biennial meetings for scholars who deal with environmental matters in literature. ASLE publishes a journal *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* (*ISLE*) in which current international scholarship can be found.

This study, it is argued, cannot be performed without a keen understanding of the environmental crises of modern times and thus must inform personal and political actions; it is, in a sense, a form of activism. Many critics also emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the enquiry, which is informed by ecological science, politics, ethics, women's studies, Native American studies, and history, among other academic fields. The term "ecocriticism" was coined in 1978 by William Rueckert in his essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism." Interest in the study of nature writing and with reading literature with a focus on "green" issues grew through the 1980s, and by the early 1990s ecocriticism had emerged as a recognizable discipline within literature departments of American universities.

Environmental ethics are founded on the awareness, that we all living beings are the part of nature and man being the most intelligent is considered as patron to the nature. Co-

existence of man and nature is interdependent. Nature provides the necessary support to man and other living beings on the other hand living beings help nature to grow and develop. In any natural system the well being of a species is dependent on the growth and harmony of the whole eco-system. Species other than man has poor understanding of personal and natural growth and development, so it is fundamental ethical responsibility of man to respect and protect nature, its resources and its life supporting systems. Nature should not be taken for granted. Whenever man has exploited the natural resources unethically, nature has responded furiously in the form of ferocious floods, earthquakes, landslide, tsunami and other natural calamities etc. Man might have reached to any level of growth and advancement but the importance of ecological balance for the survival of living beings is same as it was in primitive times. Besides scientists, environmentalists, ecologists and nature lovers, the artists, poets, philosophers, thinkers and writers also have great concern and deep rooted interest for maintenance of the ecological balance and nurturing care for environment. Concern of literary community may be well felt in the literature. If we undertake a literary journey through the literature of any community or language, poets and writers have tried their best to care, protect and preserve the environment. Present research is an attempt to study, investigate and understand environmental concerns in the novels of Amitav Ghosh.

2. Review of Literature

It has been observed that in our country this area of literature has not been explored as much as the other areas are concerned. Very little research has been done in this area of research. Ecocriticism is the new current in the literary criticism. Amitav Ghosh is the renowned person in the literary sphere. Earlier researchers have tried to surface the aspects of ecocritical perspectives in one of the British and American Literature. This is the first attempt to do the through study on the works of Amitav Ghosh from environmental dimensions that how Ecocide a major concern of ecocriticism discusses the ecological destruction caused by the human world to nature and human beings alike.

3. Importance of the Research

Nature and literature have always shared a close relationship as is evidenced in the works of poets and other writers down the ages in almost all cultures of the world. Today the intimate relationship between the natural and social world is being analyzed and emphasized in all departments of knowledge and development. The literary critic tries to study how this

close relationship between nature and society has been textualized by the writers in their works. In this context two terms have become very important today ecology and ecocriticism. India is a country with variety of ecosystems which ranges from Himalayas in the north to plateaus of south and from the dynamic *Sunderbans* in the east to dry *Thar* of the West. With time, however, these ecosystems have been adversely affected due to increasing population and avarice of mankind. Literature could not remain unaffected from this depletion and this research is on that how the concern for nature changes in Indian literature from reverence to destruction.

Ecocriticism begins from the conviction that the arts of imagination and the study thereof by virtue of their grasp of the power of word, story, and image to reinforce, enliven, and direct environmental concern can contribute significantly to the understanding of environmental problems: the multiple forms of eco-degradation that afflict planet Earth today. In this, ecocriticism concurs with other branches of the environmental humanities ethics, history, religious studies, anthropology, humanistic geography in holding that environmental phenomena must be comprehended, and that today's burgeoning array of environmental concerns must be addressed qualitatively as well as quantitatively. For the present research, researcher has taken five novels written by Amitav Ghosh which are *The Glass Palace, Hungry Tide, River of Smoke, Sea of Poppies* and *Flood of Fire.*

4. Aims and Objectives of the Research

Ecology relatively a new science, deals with the various principles which govern such relationships between organisms and environment. Today ecology is defined as the way in which plants, animals and people are related to each other and their environment. In this relationship they are so much interdependent on each other that any disturbance in one disturbs the other. History has proved this every now and then that with every change in the civilization, the relationship of animals and human beings have also changed and the effect on civilization of the changes in environment has been so acute that sometimes it has wiped the whole civilization from the face of the earth. Therefore, concern for ecology is one of the most discussed issues today. It is the concern of every country to replenish the diminishing factors of ecology which threatens human beings the most.

The aims can be enlisted as follow as:

1. To find whether there is a relationship among man, nature and literature.
2. To find the role of Nature in Human being.
3. To find the ecocritical perspectives.

The objectives, in general, considered as the steps to achieve the aims of the research. The objectives of the present study can be stated as follows.

1. To study the theory of Ecocriticism.
2. To read closely and examine the works in the light of Ecocritical point of view.
3. To present the writing features Ecocritical writings.
4. To recommend to fill this galloping gap.
5. To study Ecology and ethics and principles.
6. to explore the environmental dimensions of literature

5. Scope and limitation of the Research

The present research has broad scope. It studies the role of environment in the life of human beings and its aspects presented in the novels. The study will be limited to the perspectives of ecocriticism and it will explore various environmental dimensions that are reflected in the works of Amitav Ghosh.

6. Hypothesis

The hypotheses of the present work are as follow as.

1. Amitav Ghosh has raised environments issues through his Novels.
2. Amitav Ghosh is concerned for ecology.
3. Novels of Amitav Ghosh are green text
4. To study place as genre in the novels of Amitav Ghosh.

7. Research Methodology

Researcher has adopted contextual research methodology as a tool to study the ecocritical perspectives in the given novels. The present research is the study of representation environmental dimensions in the literary canon and how does it effect on the lives of human being. Researcher has to do the contextual study of works of *The Glass Palace, Hungry Tide, River of Smoke, Sea of Poppies* and *Flood of Fire.*

8. Data Collection

The data required for the present research work will be collected as follows:

1. **Primary Data:**
   The primary data for the present research is the novels written by Amitav Ghosh.
2. **Secondary Data:**

The secondary data will be collected from the different books, well-known literary journals, articles, reviews, recorded interviews, web material and newspapers. It will also be collected from the personal participation in various conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.

9. Scheme of Chapterization

Chapter I : Introduction

Chapter II : Ecological Elements

Chapter III : Bioregionalism

Chapter IV : Reverence to Destruction: Colonial Effect on environment

Chapter V : Ecosophy

Chapter VI : Conclusion

Chapters in detail

Chapter I: Introduction

This Chapter includes the introduction of theory Ecocriticism. Researcher will discuss the relationship between Literature and Environment, the development of Ecocriticism as theory and kinds of Ecocritical study to literature. Researcher will introduce the ethics of Ecocriticism in the present chapter.

Chapter II: Ecological Elements

It is important to kno w which are the ecological elements. This will help researcher to find out these elements in the taken novels written by Amitav Ghosh.

Chapter III: Bioregionalism

Bioregionalism is philosophy or vision that originated in the American West during the 1970s. From the perspective of ecology a bioregion is a geographical area of similar

climate ecosystems and groups of species are found on similar sites. Amitav Ghosh in his novels presents the biotic life in forests, which is essentially a bioregion. In tune with this philosophy, Ghosh views the forest bioregion not only as a territory defined by natural markers, but also as a domain of consciousness.

Chapter IV: Reverence to Destruction: Colonial Effect on environment

Nature and literature goes hand in hand. The world of literature throngs with works dealing with beauty and power of nature. However, the concern for ecology and the threat that the continuous misuse of our environment poses on humanity has only recently caught the attention of the writers. This sense of concern has given rise to a new branch of literary theory, namely Eco-criticism. Colonial effect on the environment can be seen in these novels. In this chapter sufficient light will be thrown on the reasons of the degradation of the environment.

Chapter VI: Ecosophy

Ecosophy is the contracted neologism for ecological philosophy or ecophilosophy. Those approaches which give emphasis to ecocentric values have been referred to give emphasis to ecocentric values have been referred as ecosophy. Just as the main traditional philosophy is wisdom. So the main aim of ecophilosophy is ecosophy or ecological wisdom. Ecosophy involves an ongoing comprehensive inquiry into values, the nature of the world and the self.

Chapter VI: Conclusions

In the last chapter researcher will discuss about the hypotheses whether these are proved or not. Ecocriticism is the combination of ecology and expressions of the theory. In this concluding researcher will try to prove whether literature can make positive contributions towards the awareness about the environment.

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